

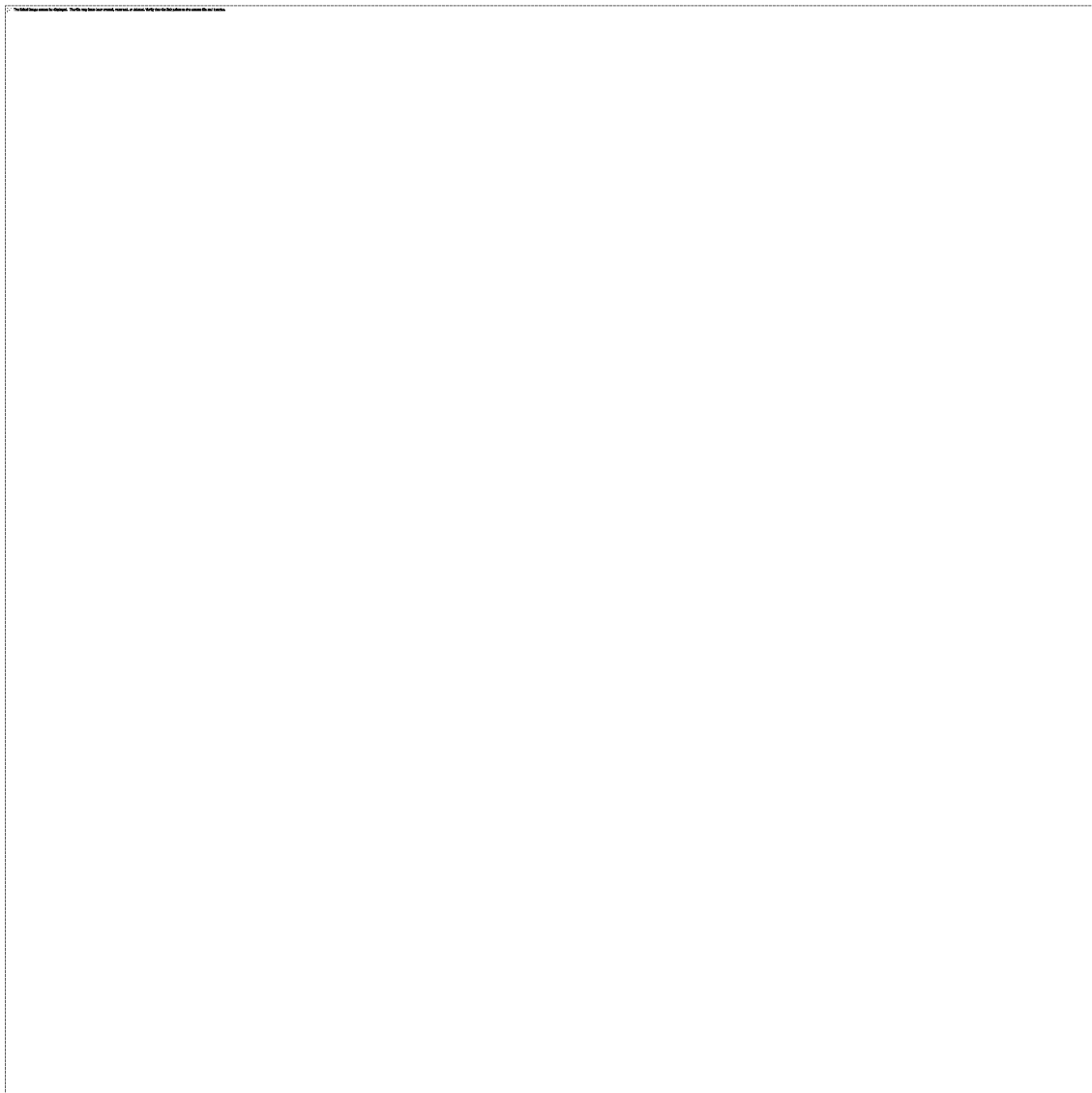
Message

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**From:** Joanne Ivancic Advanced Biofuels USA [info@advancedbiofuelsusa.org]  
**Sent:** 8/20/2019 1:45:49 PM  
**To:** Olechiw, Michael [olechiw.michael@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Policy, Regulation, Legislation, Litigation, News about Biofuels, Bioeconomy, Renewable Fuels, Recycling Carbon -- August 2019 Advanced Biofuels USA

Dear Michael: Here's you monthly review of what you might have missed or forgotten about: US Federal Legislation, Regulation, Litigation. Policy. Requests for Comment on Federal Regulations. Plus links to International Policy Issues. At your fingertips.

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## 2020 Election Activities

Watch our new category [2020 Election Activities](#) for Presidential campaigning, as well as House, Senate and local/regional election activities. Also, the category [White House](#) focuses on Presidential involvement with biofuels.

Here are a few examples:

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## In Iowa, Candidates Are Talking About Farming's Climate Change Connections Like No Previous Election

by Georgina Gustin (Inside Climate News) About half the candidates have policy proposals or statements addressing climate change impacts on agriculture or farming's potential as a climate solution. ... They also ...

August 16, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## Ethanol vs. Environment: Democratic Hopefuls Campaign on Clashing Agendas

by Jarrett Renshaw and Humeyra Pamuk (Reuters) Democratic presidential hopeful Elizabeth Warren is a champion of the corn-based ethanol industry when she campaigns in rural towns dotting the U.S. Farm Belt. But ...July 29, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## These Candidates See Farming as a Climate Solution. Here's What They're Proposing.

by Georgina Gustin (Inside Climate Change) ... Sen. Michael Bennet, like Biden, writes about voluntary markets to support better soil carbon practices. South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg talked at the first debate about climate change and farming's ... July 19, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

---

## Decision 2020 Bioeconomy – 25 Declared Presidential Candidates and How They Stand on the Bioeconomy

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) Who's best for you? Who's best for us? Who supports what you do, and how strongly? In this guide, we've looked at the policies and activities ...July 3, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## Policy: US and International

There's lots of overlap with policies, legislation, regulations and litigation. Find articles about [policy developments](#) in the **US, other countries and states** [here](#). For details, click on the name of the country or state that appears along the right margin of our [website](#). Or click on tags such as:

[Transportation Fuels Policy](#)

[Energy Policy](#)

[Environmental Policy](#)

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## Federal Legislation

	<p><a href="#">Tax credit</a> extenders and other tax legislation are getting attention, as are <a href="#">carbon tax/cost/price</a>. The transportation bill favors EVs over biofuels; and a bill from Senators Toomey and Feinstein takes direct aim at corn ethanol. Would the FAST (Fixing America's Surface Transportation) Act bring attention to biofuels as part of a climate change solution?</p>
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Various efforts to reform the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), particularly to address the [small refinery exemptions](#) (SREs), are also in the news.

For more legislative news (including Executive Orders), [click here](#). Scroll down for Regulations and Litigation news.

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## Florida Ag Producers, Foresters Share Ideas to Deal with Climate Change

(Solutions from the Land) Florida Rep. Kathy Castor told a group of farmers, ranchers and timber producers in her state Monday that responding to a changing climate must be a collaborative effort, drawing together producers, government agencies and academics to develop the steps needed for the agriculture sector to adapt ...August 14, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## A 'Golden Triangle': In Nebraska, Ethanol, Cattle and Agriculture Are Intertwined, with Major Impacts on the State's Economy.

by Matt Thompson (Ethanol Producer Magazine) It's fitting that the Cornhusker State should be an important player in the nation's ethanol industry. Second only to Iowa in production, Nebraska's ethanol industry has a big impact on the state's economy. In addition to a strong corn-growing contingent, Nebraska has an impressive cattle ...August 6, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## Federal Bill Could Create Biogas Tax Credits, Bolster Organics Infrastructure

by Cole Rosengren (Waste Dive) ... The expiration of the ITC benefits in 2016, followed by the expiration of related production tax credits in 2017, are frequently cited as key limitations for financing new biogas infrastructure. While other incentives such as California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard have helped fill the gap for ...August 5, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

---

## Carbon Pricing Proposals in the 116th Congress

by Jason Ye (Center for Climate and Energy Solutions) There are various market-based approaches to pricing carbon (e.g. carbon tax, cap and trade, and a clean energy standard). All of these can reduce emissions cost-effectively while driving clean energy innovation. This factsheet compares six carbon tax and cap-and-dividend proposals introduced in the 116th ... August 5, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## Fact Sheet: Fossil Fuel Subsidies: A Closer Look at Tax Breaks and Societal Costs

by Clayton Coleman and Emma Dietz (Environmental and Energy Study Institute)

A recent analysis published in Nature Energy found that continuing current fossil fuel subsidies would make it profitable to extract half of all domestic oil reserves.

This could increase U.S. oil production by 17 billion barrels over the next few

decades and emit ...August 2, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## Senate Biofuel Advocates Want a Piece of Transportation Bill

by Elvina Nawaguna (Roll Call) The bill would set aside \$1 billion to build charging and fueling stations for electric-, hydrogen- and natural gas-powered

vehicles — A provision in the Senate's surface transportation bill that would help pay for charging and refilling stations for zero- or low-emissions vehicles should

also support more stations for biofuels ...August 2, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

---

## Senate Committee Acknowledges Climate Change in Passing \$287 Billion Transportation Bill

by Ashley Halsey III and John Wagner (Washington Post) ... The bill got pushback from Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), whose state is a major producer of ethanol, the

corn-based product that is added to about 98 percent of gasoline. She objected to a provision to promote electric charging stations. "If all ...August 1, 2019 [Read Full](#)

[Article](#)

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## Bill from U.S. Sens. Toomey, Feinstein Would Abolish Ethanol Mandate

by J.D. Prose (The Times) U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey is working to repeal the ethanol mandate with California Democratic U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein. The Restore

Environmental Sustainability to Our Renewable Energy (RESTORE) Act would abolish the corn ethanol mandate in the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). "The ill-

conceived RFS forces American motorists ...July 29, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

---

## Four New Carbon Pricing Bills Drop in Congress

by Danny Richter (Citizen's Climate Lobby) ... First, Florida Republican Rep. Francis Rooney has introduced the bipartisan Stemming Warming and Augmenting Pay (SWAP) Act with cosponsor Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL). Together, these two representatives have also introduced the Raise Wages, Cut Carbon Act. Citizens' Climate Lobby is pleased to see the introduction of these bipartisan ...July 26, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Paving the Way for Green, Local Leadership: Doggett Introduces Green Transportation Act to Reduce Pollution & Mitigate Climate Change

(Office of Congressman Lloyd Doggett (D-TX 35)) Today (July 18, 2019), U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), Chair of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee and House Budget Committee Member, along with Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Chair of the House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, together with several colleagues, introduced ...July 19, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### A Bill Bonanza: The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Will Consider 23 Bills

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will consider 23 bills this morning on issues ranging from carbon capture to nuclear energy. Texas Sen. John Cornyn's bill, S. 1685 (116), for one, would require DOE to establish a carbon capture technology research program, while .. July 16, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## **Federal Regulation**



Although the E15 waiver has been lifted (and it looks like New York will make its sale legal in that state), the new rule can still limit retail sales due to "sub-sim" issues that Urban Air Initiative explains. And public comment was taken on the new renewable volume obligation (RVO) numbers. South Dakota leads on efforts to get E30 understood and accepted.

Then attention turns to President Trump's order for 31 small refinery exemptions and resulting "demand destruction" that will result if non-exempt refiners aren't required to make up the difference. Senator Chuck Grassley had some strong words to express his assessment of the situation.

CAFE/SAFE and California regulations remain in the news. State/region-oriented **Low Carbon Fuel Standard**-type strategies are bubbling up.

See also articles in Legislation and Litigation for overlapping topics.

---

### Addressing Two Objections to My Midwest Ethanol Plan

by Robert Rapier (Forbes) ... My proposed solution is for the Midwestern states to band together to provide sufficient state incentives to develop a major Midwest corridor where E85 — a blend of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline — is the primary fuel of choice for consumers. There is enough ... August 19, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

---

### Report: Trump Ordered Waivers: Ongoing Court Challenges May Be Only Avenue Left for Biofuels

by By Todd Neeley and Chris Clayton (DTN Progressive Farmer) ... The president sided with oil refiners over ethanol producers and corn farmers, just two months after reiterating his support for ethanol at a rally held at Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy in Council Bluffs, Iowa, to celebrate the approval of year-round ... August 19, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

---

### Trump Intervention Triggered EPA's Surprise Biofuel Waiver Decision: Sources



by Humeyra Pamuk (Reuters) A phone call from U.S. President Donald Trump last week ended a nearly two-month-long review of the nation's biofuels program, three sources familiar with the matter said, with the White House siding in favor of oil refiners over corn growers. Trump gave Andrew Wheeler, head of the U.S. ...  
August 16, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

---

### How to Fix the Ethanol Industry

by Robert Rapier (Forbes) ...In this model, the entities that control the model are the same as those that benefit from it: The Midwestern states that produce essentially all of the nation's ethanol. The key goal here is to get the federal government out of the position of strongly impacting the market for ...August 15, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Small Refinery Waivers: Is EPA Breaking The Law?

by Anna-Lisa Laca (Farm Journal's Ag Pro) For the past two years the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been issuing small refinery hardship waivers, which allow the awarded refiners to forgo blending ethanol with their fuels. Is EPA breaking the law by issuing such waivers? It depends on who you...August 15, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### O'Brien: Retailers, Prime the Pump Set the Stage for E15 Adoption

by Matt Thompson (Ethanol Producer Magazine) For retailers who are still looking to add E15 to their product mix, Growth Energy's vice president of market development, Mike O'Brien believes there's no better place to learn about and ask questions than the Prime the Pump program. Retailers who have already made the ...August 14, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Jobsites and Machines of the Future: Diesel, Hybrid, Renewable, Connected, Autonomous and Electric

by Allen Schaeffer (Construction Executive/Diesel Technology Forum) ...  
Achieving the U.S. EPA Tier 4 emissions requirements means near-zero

particulate matter (PM 2.5) and nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions. This performance is accomplished through a combination of strategies, ranging from selective catalytic reduction and diesel particulate filters to advanced catalysts. No matter ...August 14, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Innovate AND Implement: The Digest's 2019 Multi-Slide Guide to ICM's Ethanol and Biorefining

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) Innovation is great but without implementation, the story ends there. Not so for ICM, a Kansas-based company that took its small business roots in a farming community and an idea and turned it into 1/3 of the world's ethanol produced every year by ICM technologies. With ...August 14, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### City in Colorado Develops Innovative Biogas Plant & CNG Station Project

(City of Longmont/NGV Journal) Steel rising on a site at the northwest corner of the city of Longmont's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is a sign of the future. The steel provides the frame for an approximately 23,000-square-foot building for Longmont's Biogas Treatment and Renewable Natural Gas Fueling Station Project, which will ...August 12, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Coalition Pushes EPA to Reconsider Limits on Higher Ethanol Blends

(Urban Air Initiative) In a joint petition filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals, a broad alliance of ethanol, agriculture, and clean fuel organizations requested judicial review of a recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rulemaking that would limit ethanol blending and restrict the use of blender pumps. The Urban Air Initiative ...August 12, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

---

### The Problem with the Ethanol Industry

by Robert Rapier (Forbes) ... The ethanol industry would argue that if refiners weren't being forced to blend ethanol, they wouldn't. That's mostly true. Ethanol has a significantly lower energy content than gasoline, but ethanol is used

to increase octane. Thus, refiners would still use it even if they weren't forced to, but at ...August 12, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### The Real Fuel Issue

by Geoff Cooper (Renewable Fuels Association/Washington Post) I was surprised to see in Catherine Rampell's July 26 op-ed, "The Grand Old Socialist Party," a line about "big fat federal government subsidies for corn ethanol." The last tax credit for ethanol, the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit, expired in 2011, and it's ...August 12, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### EPA Strikes Icy Blow to Ag & Biofuels: 31 Waivers Hit Heart of American Farmers and Biofuels

by Helena Tavares Kennedy (Biofuels Digest) EPA might have a new name in some circles – Exemptions for Petroleum Agency – thanks to the 31 small refinery waivers issued on Friday which has the biofuels and agriculture industries reeling after promises made by President Trump to look into why big oil ...August 12, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Managing LCFS Credits and Risk in Uncertain Times

by Michael Newman (Parhellen Underwriting Inc./Biofuels Digest) Trading in the climate finance market – the systems designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions – sometimes create areas of uncertainty. The risk of invalidation of credits worry market participants – but insurance risk capital can be used to mitigate these concerns and in ..August 8, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Trump Administration Moves to Finalize Weakening of Car Efficiency Standards: The White House's Rule Would Cost the Economy \$400 Billion by Midcentury, According to a New Analysis from Energy Innovation.

(GreenTechMedia) An analysis published Wednesday by clean energy advocacy group Energy Innovation found that if the administration does eliminate California's waiver, costs from the rule change would total \$400 billion in 2018 dollars by 2050.

By 2035, Energy Innovation projects that transportation emissions will be at least 10 percent higher than ... August 8, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### EPA's Final SAFE Vehicles Rule under OMB Review

by Erin Voegelé (Ethanol Producer Magazine) The U.S. EPA submitted its final Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks to the White House Office of Management and Budget on Aug. 2. OMB review marks a final stage before the public release of the ... August 6, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### A 'Golden Triangle': In Nebraska, Ethanol, Cattle and Agriculture Are Intertwined, with Major Impacts on the State's Economy.

by Matt Thompson (Ethanol Producer Magazine) It's fitting that the Cornhusker State should be an important player in the nation's ethanol industry. Second only to Iowa in production, Nebraska's ethanol industry has a big impact on the state's economy. In addition to a strong corn-growing contingent, Nebraska has an impressive cattle ...August 6, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### RNG Stakeholders Speak out on EPA's 2020 Renewable Fuel Proposal

by Betsy Lillian (NGT News) More than two dozen representatives from the renewable natural gas (RNG) industry spoke at Wednesday's public hearing in Michigan to provide feedback on 2020 biofuel volumes proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program. "The RNG Coalition is the ...August 6, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Fact Sheet: Fossil Fuel Subsidies: A Closer Look at Tax Breaks and Societal Costs

by Clayton Coleman and Emma Dietz (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) A recent analysis published in Nature Energy found that continuing current fossil fuel subsidies would make it profitable to extract half of all domestic oil reserves.

This could increase U.S. oil production by 17 billion barrels over the next few decades and emit ... August 2, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Dennis Lundell: Ethanol Is Vital to Rural America

by Dennis Lundell (The Cap Times) Dear Editor: With the recent move to lift restrictions on E15 by President Trump, the agricultural community has an opportunity to build America's economy with more renewable biofuels. And that means less reliance on foreign oil, cleaner air and more income in rural communities. ... August 2, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### South Dakota Farmers Union Meets with EPA Director to Discuss E30

(South Dakota Farmers Union/Farm Forum) South Dakota Farmers Union, together with leaders from 13 South Dakota agriculture organizations, sat down with Gregory Sopkin, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regional administrator for District Eight to discuss challenges facing South Dakota farmers and ranchers, as well as opportunities to be found through expanded ... August 2, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Letter: Protect Renewable Fuels

by Jim Lykam (Quad City Times) I respectfully disagree with Kerry Etringer's July 18 letter in which he described homegrown ethanol as a "sop" to farmers rather than a "good renewable source of energy." The truth is that Iowa farmers deserve credit for leading the charge on clean energy. The biofuels we ... August 2, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Biofuel Industry Testifies on Proposed RFS Levels — Small Refinery Exemptions Still Main Point of Contention with Renewable Fuel Producers.

by Jacqui Fatka (Feedstuffs) The Environmental Protection Agency hosted an annual hearing in Ypsilanti, Mich., on next year's biofuel targets under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Many members of the biofuel industry pushed for

higher levels and for the agency to correct demand lost from previous small refinery exemptions. ... In his ...August 1, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### New York Publishes Proposed Rule to Allow E15 Sales

by Erin Voegelé (Ethanol Producer Magazine) The New York Department of Agriculture and Markets published a proposed rule July 24 to allow E15 sales within the state. The move will soon open the nation's fourth largest gasoline market to sales of the fuel blend. The rulemaking comes nearly a nine years ...August 1, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### SAF Update: The Digest's 2019 Multi-Slide Guide to FAA

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) The Federal Aviation Administration is a governmental body of the United States with powers to regulate all aspects of civil aviation in that nation as well as over its surrounding international waters and have been working on replacing petroleum jet fuel with drop-in renewable alternatives. Dr. ... August 1, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Coalition Seeks Court Action Forcing EPA to Account for Lost Biofuel Volumes

(Renewable Fuels Association) An agriculture and biofuels coalition has petitioned the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to lift a stay it placed on a joint 2018 petition asking the court to protect the renewable fuels industry from undue harm caused by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. ...July 31, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### RFA Urges EPA To Address RFS Small Refiner Waivers and Court Remand

(Renewable Fuels Association) In oral testimony presented at a public hearing today in Ypsilanti, Mich., the Renewable Fuels Association urged the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that its 2020 Renewable Fuel Standard final rule prospectively accounts for expected small refinery exemptions

and properly addresses a 2017 court order to restore 500 ...July 31, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### EPA Regional Eight Supervisor Greg Sopkin Visits Watertown Ethanol Plant

by David Law (MyKXLG) Cooperative board members and company employees spent most of Tuesday morning at the Glacial Lakes Energy plant in Watertown educating region 8 EPA head Greg Sopkin about the importance of ethanol to the state's farm economy. Leading off was Mark Schmidt who is the president of the ... July 31, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### EPA Chief Defends Biofuel Waivers in Meeting with Farm Senators: Sources

by Humeyra Pamuk and Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) The head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defended his agency's expanded use of waivers exempting refineries from the country's biofuel law during a closed-door meeting with farm state senators last week, arguing the program has had no negative impact on ethanol demand, according to ... July 31, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### An Answer to "Hard to Find" Equity – Opportunity Zone Funds

by Mark Riedy and Eddie Wang (Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP/Biofuels Digest) The recently-established Opportunity Zone Program offers developers, including start-up technology companies attempting to develop and commercialize new technologies in the energy, chemical, and infrastructure industries, an exciting, new opportunity to attract private placement investment funds into company-level business operations and ...July 31, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Ethanol Report on Current Issues

(AgNewsWire/Renewable Fuels Association) The Renewable Fuels Association is having a busy summer keeping up with the latest EPA actions impacting ethanol. In this edition of "The Ethanol Report," RFA president and CEO Geoff Cooper

discusses preparing for the July 31 public hearing on the proposed 2020 volume obligations, waiting on EPA to make a decision ... July 29, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### An Agenda for Rural Communities

by John Hickenlooper (The Gazette) ... The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) has been vital for rural economic growth. In Iowa alone, there are nearly 50,000 jobs related to ethanol production and nearly 40 percent of all Iowa corn is used to produce ethanol. As president, I would stop the EPA ... July 29, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### U.S. Ethanol Industry Nearing Breaking Point: Green Plains CEO

by Jarrett Renshaw, Stephanie Kelly (Reuters) The U.S. ethanol industry is about to break under the weight of the Trump Administration's trade war with China and the surge in the number of small refineries exempted from the nation's biofuel laws, said Todd Becker, CEO of Green Plains (GPRE.O). The U.S. ethanol industry ... July 29, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Ethanol vs. Environment: Democratic Hopefuls Campaign on Clashing Agendas

by Jarrett Renshaw and Humeyra Pamuk (Reuters) Democratic presidential hopeful Elizabeth Warren is a champion of the corn-based ethanol industry when she campaigns in rural towns dotting the U.S. Farm Belt. But in Washington, the U.S. senator from Massachusetts is among the co-sponsors of the Green New Deal, which calls for the ... July 29, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### RFA Extends Ethanol Invite as EPA Head Visits Oil Refinery

(Renewable Fuels Association) The Renewable Fuels Association has invited U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler to visit an ethanol plant as a follow-up to his tour of a Pennsylvania oil refinery. Wheeler was scheduled to visit Monroe Energy's plant in Trainer, Penn., today at the invitation of Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA), ... July 29, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)



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## American Coalition for Ethanol : ACE Calls on EPA to Rely on the GREET Model as It Considers Future RFS Volumes

(American Coalitin for Ethanol/Market Screener) American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) CEO Brian Jennings highlighted the important role corn ethanol could have in further reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions if properly valued under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) in a letter to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler today, informing the agency of ... July 26, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## Rules and Regulations: The Digest's 2019 Multi-Slide Guide to Regulatory Landscapes

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) How chemical products and novel substances are regulated in the U.S. has a huge impact on the bioeconomy and the companies that are producing bioproducts today. Bergeson & Campbell shares their thoughts on the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and how it impacts you, how you ... July 26, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## Major Automakers Strike Climate Deal with California, Rebuffing Trump on Proposed Mileage Freeze

by Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis (Washington Post) The agreement could have vehicles hit 50 miles per gallon on average by 2026 — Four automakers from three continents have struck a deal with California to produce fleets that are more fuel-efficient in coming years, undercutting one of the Trump administration's most aggressive climate policy ... July 25, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK — Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)

"EPA is screwing around with the program to the detriment of agriculture and the ethanol industry. EPA needs to stop doing the bidding of big oil companies," Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) told reporters July 23, 2019, with regard to small refinery "economic hardship" exemptions according to Politico's Morning Energy. [READ MORE](#) July 24, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## Energy Department Says EPA Issued RFS Exemptions Against DOE Advice

(Office of Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)) Contrary to assertions by the EPA, the Energy Department confirmed in a letter to Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) that the EPA has issued so-called "economic hardship" exemptions under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) to small refineries, often owned by billion-dollar oil companies, even when the Energy Department ... July 24, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## Negatonnes: Beyond the ZEV, the Negative Emission Vehicle and Its Amazing Hydrogen Fuel and Electric Drive

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) ... There's the technically tougher path, which is to split ethanol and make CO<sub>2</sub> and hydrogen. The point source, high-grade CO<sub>2</sub> has value. The bio-based hydrogen has even more value than the ethanol. Conceptually, the recipe is simple. Take ethanol, add water, apply energy, and split ... July 23, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## MN Biofuels Releases 2019 First Half Report

(Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association) The Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association (MN Biofuels) released its 2019 First Half Report to its members at a networking event in Prior Lake yesterday. The report gave its members an overview of Minnesota's ethanol industry in the first six months of 2019 and the various projects undertaken by MN ... July 22, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## Refiners: Cutting Ethanol Mandate Won't Hurt Corn Farmers

by Marc Heller (E&E News) Eliminating federal biofuel mandates wouldn't be the disaster for corn farmers that ethanol advocates predict, a study commissioned by petroleum refiners said. READ MORE An Assessment of the Renewable Fuel Standard Using EVA-NEMS (Energy Ventures Analysis/The Fueling American Jobs Coalition) ... July 22, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## Gillibrand Tours Plant

by Mike Putz (Dyersville Commercial) Democratic presidential candidate Kirsten Gillibrand might be trailing in the polls both in Iowa and nationally, but she believes stops like the one she made to Big River Resources in Dyersville will convince Iowans to send her to the White House. The New York Senator visited ...July 17, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## Trump Admin Abandons Fast Timeline for Rollback — Sources

by Maxine Joselow (E&E News) The Trump administration appears to have abandoned its initial strategy for defending the rollback of Obama-era clean car rules from court challenges, according to three people with knowledge of the situation. The administration was previously rushing to finalize the rollback in early summer. Experts have said that would July 17, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## Diesel Technology Forum Responds to House Select Committee Hearing on the Climate Crisis, “Solving the Climate Crisis: Cleaning Up Heavy Duty Vehicles, Protecting Communities”

(Diesel Technology Forum) The new generation of diesel technology is helping ports, cities, communities and entire nations meet climate and clean air challenges of today and tomorrow, according to a statement submitted today by the Diesel Technology Forum, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of diesel engines, fuel and the ...July 16, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## Harmful Gasoline Emissions Threat to Public Health

by Doug Durante (Morning Consult/Clean Fuels Development Coalition) ... But what if there is research illustrating that some of these toxins — specifically ultrafine toxic particulates that often come from additives in gasoline — are not only a known danger to our public health, but that there is a solution ... July 16, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## Law Firm Urges EPA to Keep Petitions Secret; Republican Senators Call on Trump to Keep Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue from Intervening

(Farm Progress) Perkins Cole, a law firm representing small U.S. refineries has urged the Environmental Protection Agency to keep refiners' applications for waivers from the Renewable Fuel Standard secret from USDA, arguing that the petitions include confidential business information, according to BusinessWorld. A dozen Republican senators, led by John Barrasso of Wyoming, have called ... July 16, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## RFS Reset Plan from EPA Still Not Coming Soon

(DTN Progressive Farmer Washington Insider) The notice of proposed rulemaking for the reset of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) is still a ways off as there are now additional meetings scheduled on the topic at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) which is currently reviewing the EPA proposal on the ... July 16, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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# Regulations Open for Public Comment

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Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Standards for 2020 and Biomass-Based Diesel Volume for 2021, Response to the Remand of the 2016 Standards, and Other Changes Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0136  
COMMENTS DEADLINE: August 30, 2019

Under section 211 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to set renewable fuel percentage standards every year. This

action proposes the annual percentage standards for cellulosic biofuel, biomass-based diesel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel that apply to gasoline and diesel transportation fuel produced ... [July 31, 2019 Read Full Article](#)

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### EPA Opens Section 610 review of RFS DEADLINE: August 22, 2019

by Erin Voegelé (Ethanol Producer Magazine) The U.S. EPA published a notice in the Federal Register June 24 announcing it has opened a review of the Renewable Fuel Standard under Section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. According to the notice, section 610 of the RFA requires that an agency review, ...  
June 26, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### MORE OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT REQUESTS

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## Federal Litigation



A lot of court action this month stemming from both the new E15 rule and EPA's ["small" refinery exemptions](#) and reallocation of the [waived gallons](#). Plus, consternation about new Freedom of Information Act rules.

For more on federal litigation, [click here](#).

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### Coalition Pushes EPA to Reconsider Limits on Higher Ethanol Blends

(Urban Air Initiative) In a joint petition filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals, a broad alliance of ethanol, agriculture, and clean fuel organizations requested judicial review of a recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rulemaking that

would limit ethanol blending and restrict the use of blender pumps. The Urban Air Initiative ... August 12, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Small Fuel Retailers Sue Trump EPA over E15 Gasoline Rule – Filing

by Humeyra Pamuk (Reuters) A group representing the country's small fuel retailers has filed a lawsuit this week against the Environmental Protection Agency over its rule lifting a ban on the year-round sales of higher ethanol blends of gasoline, a court filing showed on Friday. ... In a filing dated Aug. ... August 12, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### States Sue Trump Administration for Reduced Penalties on Fuel Efficiency

by Rebecca Beltsch (The Hill) Thirteen states filed suit against the Trump administration Friday, arguing it was breaking the law by cutting penalties for automakers that do not meet Obama-era fuel efficiency standards. The suit, led by California's and New York's attorneys general, goes after a National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) rule that ... August 5, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Coalition Seeks Court Action Forcing EPA to Account for Lost Biofuel Volumes

(Renewable Fuels Association) An agriculture and biofuels coalition has petitioned the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to lift a stay it placed on a joint 2018 petition asking the court to protect the renewable fuels industry from undue harm caused by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. ... July 31, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Small U.S. Refiners Vow to Sue EPA If It Fails to Issue 2018 Waiver Rulings in 60 Days

by Humeyra Pamuk (National Post/Reuters) Small U.S. refineries plan to sue Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 60 days, if the agency by then fails to issue its decisions on 2018 petitions for waivers from the nation's biofuel laws,

refiners said in a letter on Wednesday. ... Since Trump took office, the EPA ... July 19, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### San Joaquin County Biodiesel Firm Sentenced To Probation, Fines For Clean Water Act Violations

(U.S. Department of Justice) On July 8, 2019, United States District Judge Kimberly J. Mueller sentenced the corporation known as American Biodiesel, Inc. for violations of the Clean Water Act, U.S. Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced. American Biodiesel, Inc., registered in San Joaquin County as Community Fuels, manufactured biodiesel fuel ... July 16, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Trump Administration Suspends Obama-Era Fuel Efficiency Penalties

by Jessica Campisi (The Hill) The Trump administration announced late Friday that it will formally suspend an Obama-era regulation that penalized automakers that didn't meet fuel-efficiency requirements, Reuters reports. After Congress ordered federal agencies to adjust existing penalties in 2015, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued rules that more than July 15, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### Ethanol Blog: ... Inadequate Domestic Supply

by Todd Neeley (DTN Progressive Farmer) ... The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on July 28, 2017, [https://www.dtnpf.com/...](https://www.dtnpf.com/), ruled the EPA erred in how it interpreted an "inadequate domestic supply" waiver provision in the RFS on 2016 volumes and was required by the court to review the ... July 10, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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### ABA's Take: The Digest's 2019 Multi-Slide Guide to RVOs & SREs

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) In line with today's top story on the EPA's RVOs proposal for 2020, here's the Advanced Biofuels Association's take from ABLC 2019 on it all from a history perspective. Mike McAdams, President of Advanced

Biofuels Association, looks back at the history of EPA's small refinery exemptions going ... July 8, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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## [EPA Rule Lets Political Officials Block FOIA Document Requests](#)

by Meg Cunningham (Roll Call) Rulemaking follows Interior Department actions that drew congressional criticism — A new EPA rule would allow political appointees to review and withhold documents requested by the public under the Freedom of Information Act. The final rule, published Wednesday in the Federal Register, was signed by EPA Administrator ... June 26, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

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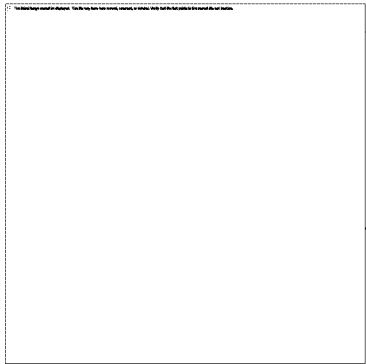
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